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8 Attorneys for Defendants CITY OF HEMET,
PATRICK SOBASZEK, and ANDREW REYNOSO

10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

11 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, EASTERN DIVISION**

13 GEORGE GONZALEZ,

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 STATE OF CALIFORNIA; CITY OF
HEMET; PATRICK SOBASZEK;
17 ANDREW REYNOSO; SEAN IRICK;
and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

18 Defendants.

Case No. 5:25-cv-00331 KK(DTBx)

**DEFENDANT CITY OF HEMET;
PATRICK SOBASZEK; ANDREW
REYNOSO'S ANSWER TO
PLAINTIFF'S SECOND AMENDED
COMPLAINT; DEMAND FOR
JURY TRIAL**

20 Pursuant to Rule 8(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Defendant
21 CITY OF HEMET; PATRICK SOBASZEK; ANDREW REYNOSO
22 ("Defendants") answers the Second Amended Complaint of Plaintiff, GEORGE
23 GONZALEZ ("Plaintiff"). If an averment is not specifically admitted, it is hereby
24 denied.

ANSWER TO COMPLAINT

1
2 1. Answering Paragraph 1, Defendants deny generally and specifically
3 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
4 wrongdoing.

5 2. Answering Paragraph 2, Defendants deny generally and specifically
6 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
7 wrongdoing.

8 3. Answering Paragraph 3, Defendants deny generally and specifically
9 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
10 wrongdoing.

11 4. Answering Paragraph 4, Defendants deny generally and specifically
12 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
13 wrongdoing.

14 5. Answering Paragraph 5, Defendants deny generally and specifically
15 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
16 wrongdoing.

17 6. Answering Paragraph 6, Defendants deny generally and specifically
18 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
19 wrongdoing.

20 7. Answering Paragraph 7, Defendants deny generally and specifically
21 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
22 wrongdoing.

23 8. Answering Paragraph 8, Defendants deny generally and specifically
24 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
25 wrongdoing.

26 9. Answering Paragraph 9, Defendants deny generally and specifically
27 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
28 wrongdoing.

1 10. Answering Paragraph 10, Defendants deny generally and specifically
2 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
3 wrongdoing.

4 11. Answering Paragraph 11, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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7 12. Answering Paragraph 12, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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10 13. Answering Paragraph 13, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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13 14. Answering Paragraph 14, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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16 15. Answering Paragraph 15, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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18 wrongdoing.

19 16. Answering Paragraph 16, Defendants deny generally and specifically
20 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
21 wrongdoing.

22 17. Answering Paragraph 17, Defendants deny generally and specifically
23 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
24 wrongdoing.

25 18. Answering Paragraph 18, Defendants deny generally and specifically
26 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
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1 19. Answering Paragraph 19, Defendants deny generally and specifically
2 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
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7 21. Answering Paragraph 21, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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13 23. Answering Paragraph 23, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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16 24. Answering Paragraph 24, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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18 wrongdoing.

19 25. Answering Paragraph 25, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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21 wrongdoing.

22 26. Answering Paragraph 26, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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25 27. Answering Paragraph 27, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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1 28. Answering Paragraph 28, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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19 34. Answering Paragraph 34, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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22 35. Answering Paragraph 35, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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25 36. Answering Paragraph 36, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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1 37. Answering Paragraph 37, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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1 82. Answering Paragraph 82, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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7 102. Answering Paragraph 102, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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10 103. Answering Paragraph 103, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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13 104. Answering Paragraph 104, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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16 105. Answering Paragraph 105, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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19 106. Answering Paragraph 106, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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22 107. Answering Paragraph 107, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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25 108. Answering Paragraph 108, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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1 109. Answering Paragraph 109, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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4 110. Answering Paragraph 110, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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7 111. Answering Paragraph 111, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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10 112. Answering Paragraph 112, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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12 wrongdoing.

13 113. Answering Paragraph 113, Defendants deny generally and specifically
14 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
15 wrongdoing.

16 114. Answering Paragraph 114, Defendants deny generally and specifically
17 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
18 wrongdoing.

19 115. Answering Paragraph 115, Defendants deny generally and specifically
20 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
21 wrongdoing.

22 116. Answering Paragraph 116, Defendants deny generally and specifically
23 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
24 wrongdoing.

25 117. Answering Paragraph 117, Defendants deny generally and specifically
26 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
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1 118. Answering Paragraph 118, Defendants deny generally and specifically
2 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
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5 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
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7 120. Answering Paragraph 120, Defendants deny generally and specifically
8 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
9 wrongdoing.

10 121. Answering Paragraph 121, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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12 wrongdoing.

13 122. Answering Paragraph 122, Defendants deny generally and specifically
14 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
15 wrongdoing.

16 123. Answering Paragraph 123, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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18 wrongdoing.

19 124. Answering Paragraph 124, Defendants deny generally and specifically
20 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
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22 125. Answering Paragraph 125, Defendants deny generally and specifically
23 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
24 wrongdoing.

25 126. Answering Paragraph 126, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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1 127. Answering Paragraph 127, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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7 129. Answering Paragraph 129, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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10 130. Answering Paragraph 130, Defendants deny generally and specifically
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12 wrongdoing.

13 131. Answering Paragraph 131, Defendants deny generally and specifically
14 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
15 wrongdoing.

16 132. Answering Paragraph 132, Defendants deny generally and specifically
17 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
18 wrongdoing.

19 133. Answering Paragraph 133, Defendants deny generally and specifically
20 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
21 wrongdoing.

22 134. Answering Paragraph 134, Defendants deny generally and specifically
23 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
24 wrongdoing.

25 135. Answering Paragraph 135, Defendants deny generally and specifically
26 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
27 wrongdoing.
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1 136. Answering Paragraph 136, Defendants deny generally and specifically
2 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
3 wrongdoing.

4 137. Answering Paragraph 137, Defendants deny generally and specifically
5 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
6 wrongdoing.

7 138. Answering Paragraph 138, Defendants deny generally and specifically
8 each and every allegation contained therein, and Defendants deny all liability and/or
9 wrongdoing.

10 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

11 Defendants plead the following separate defenses. Defendants reserve the right
12 to assert additional affirmative defenses that discovery indicates are proper.

13 **FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

14 1. Plaintiff's Complaint, and each alleged cause of action in it, fails to state
15 a claim upon which relief can be granted.

16 **SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

17 **(Tort Claims Act Violation)**

18 2. This action is barred by Plaintiff's failure to comply with the government
19 tort claims presentation requirements, California Government Code § 900, *et seq.*,
20 including but not limited to §§ 900, 900.4, 901, 905, 905.2, 910, 911, 911.2, 911.4,
21 945.4, 945.6, 946.6, 950.2, and 950.6, to the extent applicable.

22 3. The Complaint is barred based on Plaintiff's failure to exhaust
23 administrative remedies prior to filing this lawsuit.

24 4. Plaintiff's recovery is barred for failure to timely comply with the
25 provisions of the claims statutes, including, but not limited to California Government
26 Code §§ 901, 905, 905.2, 911.2, 945.4, 945.6, 950.2.

27 5. Plaintiff's recovery is barred because the causes of action stated in the
28 Complaint do not correspond with the legal claims asserted in Plaintiff's written

1 claims. The Complaint hereby alleges legal bases for recovery which are not fairly
2 reflected in the written claim.

3 **THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

4 **(Waiver, Estoppel, Unclean Hands)**

5 6. Defendants allege that Plaintiff's actions are barred by reason of conduct,
6 actions and inactions of Plaintiff which amount to and constitute a waiver of any right
7 Plaintiff may or might have had in reference to the matters and things alleged in the
8 Complaint, or that otherwise estop Plaintiff from recovery in this action, including
9 but not limited to the doctrine of unclean hands.

10 **FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

11 **(Failure to Mitigate Damages)**

12 7. Plaintiff's claims are barred or limited to the extent Plaintiff failed to
13 mitigate Plaintiff's injuries or damages, if there were any. Plaintiff has failed to
14 mitigate the damages, if any, which Plaintiff has sustained, and to exercise reasonable
15 care to avoid the consequences of harms, if any, in that, among other things, Plaintiff
16 has failed to use reasonable diligence in caring for any injuries, failed to use
17 reasonable means to prevent aggravation of any injuries and failed to take reasonable
18 precautions to reduce any injuries and damages.

19 **FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

20 **(Contributory and/or Comparative Liability)**

21 8. Plaintiff's claims are barred or limited by Plaintiff's
22 contributory/comparative negligence or other conduct, acts, or omissions, and to the
23 extent Plaintiff suffered any injury or damages, it was the result of Plaintiff's own
24 negligent or deliberate actions or omissions.

25 9. Plaintiff's recovery is barred because any injury or damage suffered by
26 Plaintiff was caused solely by reason of the Plaintiff's wrongful acts and conduct and
27 the willful resistance to a peace officer in the discharge their duties. The conduct set
28 forth in the Complaint, if and to the extent it occurred, was privileged and justified

1 and done with a good faith belief that it was correct and no action may be taken against
2 the answering Defendants on account of such conduct.

3 **SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

4 **(Public Entity/Employee Immunity for Others' Torts)**

5 10. Plaintiff's recovery is barred because public entities and employees are
6 immune from liability for any injury caused by the act or omission of another person.
7 Gov. Code §§ 815 *et seq.*, 820.2 *et seq.*

8 11. The answering Defendants are informed and believe and thereon allege
9 that if Plaintiff sustained any injury or damages, such injury or damages were solely
10 caused or contributed to by the wrongful conduct of other defendants and/or entities
11 or persons other than the answering Defendants. To the extent that Plaintiff's damages
12 were so caused, any recovery by Plaintiff as against the answering Defendants should
13 be subject to proportionately comparative equitable indemnity/contribution from such
14 third parties.

15 **SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

16 **(Public Entity/Employee Immunity for Discretionary Acts)**

17 12. There is no liability for any injury or damages, if any there were,
18 resulting from an exercise of discretion vested in a public employee, whether or not
19 such discretion be abused. Gov. Code § 815.2, 820.2, 820.4, 820.8, 820 *et seq.*

20 13. Plaintiff's recovery is barred because public entities and employees are
21 immune from liability for discharging their mandatory duties with reasonable
22 diligence.

23 14. A public employee may not be held liable for injuries or damages, if any,
24 caused by failure to adopt or by adoption of an enactment or by failure to enforce an
25 enactment and/or law, for an injury caused by his issuance, denial, suspension or
26 revocation or by his failure or refusal to issue, deny, suspend or revoke, any permit,
27 license, certificate, approval, order, or similar authorization, where he is authorized
28 by enactment to determine whether or not such authorization should be issued, denied,

1 suspended or revoked, pursuant to Government Code §§ 818.2, 818.4, 818.8, 821 and
2 821.2. Based thereon, the answering Defendants are immune from liability for any
3 injuries claimed by Plaintiff, herein.

4 15. Defendants are immune for any detriment resulting from any of its
5 actions or omissions at the time of the incident of which Plaintiff complain pursuant
6 to Government Code § 810 *et seq.*, 815 *et seq.*, 820 *et seq.*, and 845 *et seq.*, including,
7 but not limited to, §§ 810, 810.2, 810.4, 810.6, 810.8, 811, 811.2, 811.4, 811.6, 811.8,
8 820.6, 820.8, 821, 821.2, 821.4, 821.6, 821.8, 822.2, 830.5, 830.6, 835.4, 844.6, and
9 Government Code §§ 854, *et seq.*, including, but not limited to, §§ 845.6, 854.6,
10 854.8(a)(2), and §§ 855.4, 855.6, 855.8 and 856.4.

11 **EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

12 **(Public Entity Immunity)**

13 16. To the extent that the Complaint attempts to predicate liability upon any
14 public entity defendant or any employee thereof for purported negligence in retention,
15 hiring, employment, training, or supervision of any public employee, such liability is
16 barred by Government Code sections 815.2 and 820.2 and *Herndon v. County of*
17 *Marin* (1972) 25 Cal. App. 3d 933, 935, 936, *rev'd on other grounds by Sullivan v.*
18 *County of Los Angeles* (1974) 12 Cal.3d 710; and by the lack of any duty running to
19 plaintiffs; by the fact that any such purported act or omission is governed exclusively
20 by statute and is outside the purview of any public employee's authority; and by the
21 failure of any such acts or omissions to be the proximate or legal cause of any injury
22 alleged in the FAC. *See de Villers v. County of San Diego*, 156 Cal.App.4th 238, 251-
23 253, 255-256 (2007).

24 17. Defendants may not be held liable on a *respondeat superior* theory for
25 any negligent or wrongful act or omission on the part of any subordinate. Cal.
26 Government Code §§ 844.6, 845.6; Cal. Civil Code § 2351; *Malloy v. Fong* (1951)
27 37 Cal.2d 356, 378-379; *Monell v. Department of Social Services of the City of New*
28 *York* (1978) 436 U.S. 658; *Larez v. City of Los Angeles* (9th Cir. 1991) 946 F.2d 630,

1 645-646; *cf. City of Canton v. Harris*, 489 U.S. 378, 388-389 (1989); *City of Los*
2 *Angeles v. Heller*, 475 U.S. 796 (1986).

3 **NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

4 **(Qualified Immunity & Good Faith Immunity)**

5 18. Defendant County and its agents or officers at all times relevant to this
6 action acted reasonably and prudently under the circumstances. Defendants therefore
7 assert the individual defendant's Qualified Immunity from liability to the fullest extent
8 applicable.

9 19. Defendants are immune from liability under the Federal Civil Rights Act
10 because they acted in good faith with an honest and reasonable belief that their actions
11 were necessary and appropriate. Defendants are immune from liability under the
12 Federal Civil Rights Act because a reasonable police officer could believe that his
13 acts and conduct were objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances.
14 Defendants are immune from liability under the Federal Civil Rights Act because their
15 conduct did not violate clearly established rights of which a reasonable officer would
16 have known. Defendants are also immune from liability under the doctrine of
17 Qualified Immunity.

18 20. At all relevant times, Defendants acted within the scope of discretion,
19 with due care, and good faith fulfillment of responsibilities pursuant to applicable
20 statutes, rules and regulation, within the bounds of reason, and with the good faith
21 belief that their actions comported with all applicable federal and state laws. *Harlow*
22 *v. Fitzgerald* (1982) 457 U.S. 800; Cal Gov. Code §§ 815.2 and 820.2.

23 **TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

24 **(Assumption of Risk)**

25 21. At the time and place referred to in the Complaint, and before such event,
26 Plaintiff knew, appreciated, and understood each and every risk involved in placing
27 himself in the position which Plaintiff then assumed, and willingly, knowingly and
28 voluntarily assumed each of such risks, including, but not limited to, the risk of

1 suffering personal bodily injury and/or lawful deprivation of right(s).

2 **ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

3 **(Government Code § 845.6)**

4 22. Neither a public entity nor a public employee is liable for injury
5 proximately caused by the failure of the employee to furnish or obtain medical care
6 for a prisoner in his custody.

7 23. A public employee, and the public entity where the employee is acting
8 within the scope of his employment, is liable if the employee knows or has reason to
9 know that the prisoner is in need of immediate medical care and he fails to take
10 reasonable action to summon such medical care.

11 **TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

12 24. Defendants contends that they cannot fully anticipate all affirmative
13 defenses that may be applicable to this action based on the conclusory terms used in
14 Plaintiff's Complaint. Accordingly, Defendants expressly reserve the right to assert
15 additional affirmative defenses if and to the extent that such affirmative defenses
16 become applicable.

17 **THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

18 **(Accord and Satisfaction)**

19 25. As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint and each
20 purported cause of action contained therein, Defendants allege that an accord and
21 satisfaction was made between Plaintiff and Defendants.

22 **FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

23 **(Breach of Contract)**

24 26. As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint and each
25 purported cause of action contained therein, Defendants allege that any obligations
26 owed by Defendants under any alleged contract were excused by Plaintiff's breach of
27 the alleged contract.

FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Prior Material Breach)

27. As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint and each purported cause of action contained therein, Defendants allege that the purported causes of action asserted in the Complaint are barred by reason of the prior material breach of the agreement or agreements by Plaintiff upon which Plaintiff base on the Complaint.

SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Consent)

28. As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint and each purported cause of action contained therein, Defendants allege that Plaintiff is barred from prosecuting the purported causes of action set forth in the Complaint because Plaintiff, and/or the persons and/or entities acting on Plaintiff's behalf, consented to and acquiesced in the subject conduct.

SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Laches)

29. As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint and each purported cause of action contained therein, Defendants allege that Plaintiff is barred in whole or in part from prosecuting the purported causes of action set forth in the Complaint by the doctrine of laches.

EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Lack of Deception)

30. As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint and each purported cause of action contained therein, Defendants allege that the actions taken by it were not deceptive.

NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(No Malicious Intent)

31. As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint and each

1 purported cause of action contained therein, Defendants allege that Defendants did
2 not act with malicious intent to deprive any person of any Constitutional right or to
3 cause any other injury and therefore Defendants are not liable.

4 **TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

5 **(Proximate Cause – Other Persons)**

6 32. As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint and each purported
7 cause of action contained therein, Defendants allege that the damages alleged to
8 have been suffered by Plaintiff in the Complaint were proximately caused or
9 contributed to by acts or failures to act of persons other than Defendants answering,
10 which acts or failures to act constitute an intervening and superseding cause of the
11 damages alleged in the Complaint.

12 **TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

13 **(Proximate Cause – Plaintiff)**

14 33. As a separate and first affirmative defense to the Complaint and each
15 purported cause of action contained therein, Defendants allege that the injuries and
16 damages alleged in the Complaint by Plaintiff occurred, were proximately caused by
17 and/or were contributed to by Plaintiff's own acts or failures to act and that Plaintiff's
18 recovery, if any, should be reduced by an amount proportionate to the amount by
19 which said acts caused or contributed to said alleged injury or damages.

20 **TWENTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

21 **(Ongoing Investigation)**

22 34. As a separate and affirmative defense to the Complaint and each
23 purported cause of action contained therein, Defendants allege that Defendants have
24 not yet completed a thorough investigation or study or completed the discovery of all
25 the facts and circumstances of the subject matter of the Complaint and, accordingly,
26 reserve Defendants the right to amend, modify, revise or supplement their answer and
27 to plead such other defenses and take such other further actions as Defendants may
28 deem proper and necessary in their defense upon completion of said investigation

and/or study.

TWENTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

(Fails to State Claim under *Monell*)

35. As a separate and second affirmative defense to the Complaint and each purported cause of action contained therein, Defendants allege that the Complaint fails to state a claim under *Monell v. Department of Social Services of the City of New York* (1978) 436 U.S. 658 upon which to grant relief.

WHEREFORE, Defendant prays for relief as follows:

1. That the Second Amended Complaint be dismissed, with prejudice and in its entirety;

2. That Plaintiff take nothing by reason of this First Amended Complaint and that judgment be entered against Plaintiff and in favor of Defendant;

3. That Defendant be awarded his costs incurred in defending this action;

4. That Defendant be granted such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DATED: June 20, 2025

**MANNING & KASS
ELLROD, RAMIREZ, TRESTER LLP**

By: Khouloud E. Pearson

Eugene P. Ramirez

Andrea Kornblau

Khouloud Pearson

Attorneys for Defendants CITY OF
HEMET, PATRICK SOBASZEK, and
ANDREW REYNOSO

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Defendant, CITY OF HEMET; PATRICK SOBASZEK; ANDREW REYNOSO, hereby demands trial of this matter by jury.

DATED: June 20, 2025

**MANNING & KASS
ELLROD, RAMIREZ, TRESTER LLP**

By: Khouloud E. Pearson

Eugene P. Ramirez
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